

Mr. Allen
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Allen-Scott Report

The CIA Takes a Poll

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The Central Intelligence Agency is playing a singular role in the kaleidoscopic Dominican upheaval.

The huge, worldwide intelligence agency is polling Dominicans on whom they prefer among the various military and civilian aspirants to head a new provisional government.

The unusual soundings are being made on the personal orders of President Johnson, a strong "consensus" believer.

Publicly, the administration is insisting it is not supporting any of the rival hopefuls. But the President apparently hopes to get some indication of the tenor of Dominican sentiment through the CIA's polls.

Exactly how and where they are being conducted, and who and how many are being questioned is the CIA's secret. But the first results seemingly are in—on the basis of what has been privately communicated to members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

They have been told the CIA found only 5 per cent of Dominicans favor General Wessin y Wessin, "strong man" leader of the forces that fought the April 24 revolution.

What the polling returns will be on Juan Bosch, the elected President ousted by the military in 1963, Colonel Francisco Caamaño Dueno, rebel leader who claims to be "constitutional provisional President," and Brigadier General Antonio Imbert Barreras, head of the "counter revolutionary" military junta, is anyone's guess.

In fact, it's highly conjectural if these CIA findings will be revealed.

Foreign Relations committee men were greatly surprised to be told about Wessin's low standing. They didn't even know the CIA was making these polls.

Adding particular interest to the CIA's singular Dominican polling are views being voiced by Vice President Humphrey in telephone talks with Democratic governors and state leaders throughout the country.

From accounts reaching intrigued congressional leaders, Humphrey is displaying marked friendliness toward deposed President Bosch.

Long friendly to the Dominican, Humphrey does not go so far as to advocate his return. But he does maintain that Bosch is unquestionably the most popular leader in the country, and that an honest election

would restore him to power.

When one Midwestern governor asked whom the administration is supporting, Humphrey replied:

"No one. We're keeping hands strictly off of that. Our responsibility is to see to it that a ceasefire is achieved, a provisional government set up, and order and normality restored so a free election can be held as quickly as possible. That's our only purpose."

Despite this avowed neutrality, Humphrey went out of his way to emphatically deny that Bosch is a leftist or has such ties. Humphrey did characterize him as "naive," but contended that with the "right kind of people around him, he would be all right."

Observed one governor, "Isn't that his trouble? He's so naive that he invariably attracts the wrong people. That's why he was boot out."

This is exactly the judgment of a report shortly to be published by the Senate Internal Security Committee, headed by Senator James Eastland, D-Miss. Others signing it include Republican Leader Everett Dirksen, Ill., and Senator Roman Hruska, R-Neb.

The report characterizes Bosch as an "ideological Trotskyite," whose return to power would mean "another major victory for the Communists."

"Juan Bosch is definitely an ideological Trotskyite," declares the report, "and therefore, by definition, an ideological communist. Evidence of his softness towards Communism is ample and convincing. While Bosch was President of the Dominican Republic, not only were the communists allowed free rein for all their activities, but the real power was exercised by known Communists whom Bosch obviously either could not or did not wish to control."

"Exiled Communist leaders from all over Latin America flocked to the Dominican Republic under the Bosch regime, and the Communists began a drive having as its longrange objective not only a complete Communist take-over in San Domingo, but also the conditioning of the people of that island republic to such an extent that this Communist take-over would have major support among the people themselves."

These Senate committee findings differ flatly with Vice President Humphrey's contention that Bosch is not a leftist,